

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 1976

NO. 8

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
FROM PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING:

(1) SECRETARY'S BOSTON TRIP: SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED
SECRETARY WOULD GO TO BOSTON MARCH 11 TO ACCEPT HERTER
AWARD.

(2) ICELAND'S DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH BRITAIN: UK AND
ICELAND ARE LONG-TIME FRIENDS OF U.S. AND ARE NATO ALLIES.
U.S. VIEWS THIS NEWEST DEVELOPMENT WITH DEEPEST REGRET.
U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD
FIND EARLY AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO DIFFERENCES, AND
CONTINUES TO URGE THAT COURSE DESPITE THIS NEW COMPLICATION.

POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN, THAT MATTER SHOULD BE RESOLVED
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BETWEEN TWO SIDES. NATO SEC GEN AND NAC ARE SEIZED OF

MATTER; U.S. WILL SUPPORT ANY EFFORT TOWARD A REASONABLE

SOLUTION WHICH HAS NATO'S SUPPORT.

(3) NIXON PRC VISIT: NIXON VISIT IS PRIVATE; ANY DETAILS SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM HIS PARTY. ASKED IF INFORMATION ON PICKUP PLANE WAS COMMUNICATED TO DEPARTMENT, SPOKESMAN SAID CHINESE MADE REQUEST FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCE THRU STATE DEPARTMENT, AND WE HAVE IN THIS RESPECT BEEN INVOLVED. REFUSED TO GO BEYOND THIS IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED QUESTIONING.

(4) SYRIAN/JORDANIAN DECISION TO UNIFY DIPLOMATIC SERVICE: WE HAVE RECEIVED NO NOTIFICATION OF DECISION. IT APPEARS FROM PORTIONS OF STATEMENT WE'VE SEEN THAT TWO COUNTRIES ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING INTO COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN SUCH FIELDS AS CUSTOMS, TRANSPORT, ELECTRICITY, ETC. ON POLITICAL FRONT, OBJECTIVES AS DESCRIBED IN STATEMENT APPEAR TO US TO FALL SHORT OF UNIFICATION OR MERGER.
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